

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ZA, RH
SUBJ: KAUNDA ANSWERS ZAMBIAN CRITICS OF ZAMBIAN INVOLVEMENT
IN RHODESIA

REF: LUSAKA 0196 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
SUMMARY: PRESIDENT KAUNDA CHOSE A CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION
CEREMONY AS AN OCCASION TO CHASTIZE THOSE ZAMBIANS CRITICAL
OF ZAMBIAN INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA. HE CALLED THEM
"STUPID, SELFISH AND SHORTSIGHTED." KAUNDA PREDICTED THAT
ZIMBABWE WOULD BE FREE BY THE END OF 1977. THE FEB 4
DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL SUPPORTED KAUNDA'S ATTACK ON ZAMBIAN
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CRITICS AND OBSERVED THAT TIME SPENT SOLVING THE RHODESIAN
PROBLEM IS IN ZAMBIA'S LONG-RANGE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL
AND SECURITY INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING AT THE FEB 3 PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
CEREMONY OF SIERRA LEONE'S NEW ENVOY TO ZAMBIA, PRESIDENT
KAUNDA LASHED OUT AT ZAMBIAN CRITICS OF ZAMBIA'S INVOLVE-

MENT IN RHODESIA. KAUNDA SAID THAT JUST BECAUSE ZAMBIA IS INDEPENDENT DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT SHOULD HALT ITS SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CRITICS OF ZAMBIAN INVOLVEMENT ARE "STUPID, SELFISH AND SHORT-SIGHTED" IF THEY DO NOT SEE THAT AFRICA CANNOT CLAIM TO BE INDEPENDENT WHEN INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES ARE BEING THREATENED BY A FEW COUNTRIES STILL UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION. KAUNDA NOTED THAT ZAMBIA'S STAND ON THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE WAS BASED ON PRINCIPLE AND PREDICTED THAT IF SMITH DID NOT SURRENDER POWER TO THE MAJORITY THE RESULTS WOULD BE "TOO GHASTLY TO CONTEMPLATE." KAUNDA PREDICTED THAT ZIMBABWE WOULD BE FREE BY THE END OF 1977 AND NOTED THAT ZAMBIA WAS FORTUNATE THAT "THE MAJORITY OF THE ZAMBIAN MASSES UNDERSTAND THAT OUR OWN INDEPENDENCE IS THREATENED IF THE REST OF AFRICA IS NOT FREE." KAUNDA'S REMARKS RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE ON RADIO, TV, AND IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

2. RECALLING THE CRITICISM WITHIN ZAMBIAN A YEAR AGO OVER ZAMBIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, FEB 4 DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL SAYS THAT A SIMILAR CYCLE OF CRITICISM HAS SPRUNG UP AGAIN. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SOME RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS HAVE ANNOYED ZAMBIANS WITH THEIR TORRENT OF CRITICISM, ZAMBIANS SHOULD NOT ALLOW THIS TO BLIND THEM TO THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION. AS LONG AS THE COLONIALISTS ARE IN POWER IN RHODESIA, THE DANGER OF ATTACK ON ZAMBIA WILL CONTINUE. ZAMBIANS' QUESTIONING OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S POLICY PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF COLONISTS' PROPAGANDISTS WHO USE IT FOR THEIR OWN ENDS. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "TIME SPENT ON SOLVING THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM IS TIME SPENT ON SOLVING ZAMBIA'S SECURITY PROBLEM AND ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND LONG-TERM SECURITY INTERESTS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

COMMENT: THE COINCIDENCE OF DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF ZAMBIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA (REFTEL) WITH FRONTLINE EFFORTS TO GET THE OAU BEHIND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTED TO THE TIMING AND TENOR OF KAUNDA'S REBUKE OF HIS ZAMBIAN CRITICS. AFTER KAUNDA'S REMARKS MANY OF THESE CRITICS WILL NOW HESITATE TO CRITICIZE PUBLICLY ZAMBIA'S SOUTHERN AFRICA INVOLVEMENT, BUT OPPOSITION WILL CONTINUE UNDER THE SURFACE. IT WILL NOT BE OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO KAUNDA UNLESS THERE IS NO RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT BEFORE 1978-- ELECTION YEAR IN ZAMBIA, OR ZAMBIA BECOMES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ACTIVE HOSTILITIES WITH RHODESIA. END CONFIDENTIAL. LOW

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